

Philadelphia Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> 1836. Harlan

Dear Sir  
Yrs. of the 6<sup>th</sup> is just rec<sup>d</sup>. I agree with  
you in every particular concerning the import-  
-ant appointments - In a letter which I rec<sup>d</sup>  
last evening from a confidential fr<sup>nd</sup> of the Secty. I  
am informed, that the Sect. has come to a  
final determination to appoint two Chief  
Protanist, one he says, from Washington, who  
no one knows as a Protanist, & that Dr  
Gray, he had nearly come to the conclusion  
to appoint on the recommendation of  
Jory & others - further, there will be  
four Chief Zoologists for as many  
different departments, Dr Pickering  
is likely to be one, Mr Peale <sup>perhaps</sup> another -  
and I may add, Dr R. Coates another, who  
acknowledges that he never studied any  
branch of Zoology, excepting some of the  
Mollusca nuda and zoophites! -

This Scientific Corps is to consist of  
12 in all! -

The fact is, my dear Sir - Polytical  
influence is about to mar the whole  
concern - The Secretary has his

annu Master, or as our Mr Duane says, the  
Secretaries, are Merely the Presidents  
Clerks! - Coates took with him to  
Washington last week, letters from  
Dallas, Jagersol &c. for the purpose  
of good advice with the "great unerring  
one" - and these letters constitute  
Coates's only recommendation as  
chief Geologist, and he is very  
likely to obtain the appointment -  
Whilst men of real merit, must  
wait to see if the President may  
not have some few? to serve!

This is a sad prospect - and almost  
discourages me to take further  
part - knowing as I do that four  
persons qualified to serve as chief  
Geologist do not exist in this country -  
Have you heard that Reynolds had the  
impudence to apply for the position of  
Director in chief of the Geologic  
Corps? - but the authority, fearfulness  
of his leaving the expedition in

syme's hole, assigned him to some less  
dangerous locality -

I presume we shall have to wait  
until the appointments are made,  
when if they are <sup>of an</sup> improper nature -  
The real horses of the expedition may  
decline working in the same team  
with the "Asses" -

Yours in haste -

R. Harlan

P.S. one circumstance, the Secretary  
ought to be informed of at all events,  
Peale &c. say that they intend to  
confine their attention entirely -  
to collecting and describing  
objects in their own department -  
so that, in case they should be ordered  
to a different or distant coast or  
Island - only one portion of the  
Nat. Hist. will be investigated! -

LIBRARY  
1857

John Barry  
M.D.  
Professor of Botany

New York

RM

